



Pertinent Halachos for Yom Kippur During COVID 19

(Reviewed by Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, Harav Moshe Heinemann and other Senior Poskim shlit"a)

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic Yom Kippur this year will present with many unique halachic shailos. In light of this circumstance we have compiled a list of relevant halachos for the tzibbur. May we all be zoche to a G'mar Chasima Tova.

Mikva on Erev Yom Kippur

If one is hesitant to use the public mikva on Erev Yom Kippur, they can do "tisha kavin". Some say this can be done in the shower via standing upright under the showerhead until approximately 14 liters of water has poured on them, some say it is preferable to pour the water from a vessel (i.e. a bucket).

Purell vs. Rubbing Alcohol & Gloves

It is preferable to use a thin liquid rubbing alcohol (over 90% alcohol) as an agent for hand sanitization (rub for 15-20 seconds) rather than Purell, as there is a potential question of sicha. Gloves can be worn as well. In the event one needs specifically Purell, there is room to be makil.

Masks in Reshus Harabim

In locales where the local government has a strict recommendation to wear masks outside (i.e. New York City) one may wear a mask in Reshus Harabim, provided that it is worn in the proper position. In places where masks are not strictly recommended & the general public is not stringent about wearing them in public, there may be a potential shaila of hotza'a. Thus, in these locales it is preferable to have a mask available in shul.

Fasting

It is difficult to give a general heter or guideline regarding fasting, as each person's circumstance is unique. Please consult your doctor and your local Rav for guidance.

Halachos of Davening B'yechidus

Kol Nidrei

Kol Nidrei which makes specific mention of nedarim of the past year is intended for a tzibbur, or at least a beis-din, not for an individual. However, if an individual wishes they may say it, as there are poskim who consider it a tefilla. Kol Nidrei which refers only to nedarim of the coming year should be said even by an individual.

Vidduy

Typically a tzibbur says a total of 10 vidduyim over Yom Kippur, two by every tefilla. It is ideal for a yachid to say the 10 vidduyim as well, this can be accomplished by saying another vidduy after completing shemone esrei of each tefilla.

Selichos & Yud Gimmel Middos

Selichos on Yom Kippur night may be said, but Yud Gimmel Middos may be recited only "derech kriyah" which means that the entire passuk should be recited and preferably the trop should be used as well.



ועד רבני בתי כנסיות של אגודת ישראל באמריקה

Conference of Synagogue Rabbonim of Agudath Israel

Avinu Malkeinu

Avinu Malkeinu is said b'yechidus.

Piyutim & Unesaneh Tokef

Piyutim normally said by chazaras hashatz may be said after completing Shemone Esrei of Shachris & Mussaf.

Those who have the minhag to recite Unesaneh Tokef should say it even when davening b'yechidus.

Krias Hatorah & Haftora

It is preferable [but not obligatory] for an individual davening at home to recite the kri'as hatorah & haftora from a chumash (without any brachos).

The same applies to the kria of mincha & Maftir Yona.

Avoda in Mussaf

The Avoda of Yom Kippur should be said b'yechidus, and one should bow at the appropriate points.

One who is ill & cannot daven all the tefillos - Order of priority

If one is ill and cannot daven the entire davening, priority should be given to Krias Sh'ma, at least one vidduy, and Shemone Esrei.

If one davened shacharis the morning of Yom Kippur and is too weak in the afternoon to daven the remaining 3 tefillos of Mussaf, Mincha & Ne'illa, the order of priority is: Mincha, Ne'ila, Mussaf.